

REMARKS

Initially, applicants would like to thank Examiner Cecil for granting an interview and for his time spent during the interview.

Claims 4, 6-11, 26-31, 33 and 34 were previously pending in the application. Claims 4 and 6 are canceled and new claims 35 and 36 are added. Therefore, claims 7-11, 26-31 and 33-36 are presented for consideration.

Claims 4, 7-11, 27-29 and 33-34 are rejected as unpatentable over LINDBERG et al. WO 97/19737 and claims 6, 26 and 30-31 are rejected as unpatentable over LINDBERG et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted during the interview, amending claims 27 and 29 as discussed at the interview may distinguish over LINDBERG et al.

Claim 27 is amended and provides that there is a different distance between every two immediately adjacent ribs.

As pointed out at the interview, Figure 3 of LINDBERG et al., for example, shows a plurality of ribs. From the top of the filter to the bottom of the filter (in the drawing) there are six ribs. Ribs 1 and 2 are adjacent to each other, and ribs 3 and 4 are spaced apart from ribs 1 and 2. However, the spacing between ribs 3 and 4 is the same of that as 1 and 2. Likewise, ribs 5 and 6 are spaced apart from ribs 3 and 4, but the spacing between ribs 5 and 6 is the same spacing as that between ribs 3

and 4 (or 1 and 2). Therefore, LINDBERG et al. fail to meet the limitation that there is a different distance between every two immediately adjacent ribs as recited in claim 27. Accordingly, claim 27 and the claims that depend therefrom are believed patentable over LINDBERG et al.

Claim 29 is amended to provide that an axially extending annular projection is adjacent the side wall so that an annular channel is defined by the side wall and the annular projection.

As pointed out during the interview, the gridwork 15, 27, as shown in Figure 5, and the side wall of LINDBERG et al. do not define an annular channel therebetween. Accordingly, claim 29 and the claims that depend therefrom are also believed patentable over LINDBERG et al.

New claims 35 and 36 include limitations previously presented in claims 4 and 6. Claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 27 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

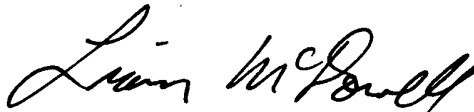
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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